

Message Text

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P 271942Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 281862

FOLLOWING SENT NOUAKCHOTT FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 26 DEC 74:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 281862

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, TGEN, MR

SUBJECT: TRANS-ATLANTIC BALOON CROSSING: MALCOLM FORBES

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 02015

1. CHECK WITH FORBES MAGAZINE, NYC, REVEALS FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING PROPOSED TRANS-ATLANTIC BALLOON FLIGHT. BALLOON WILL DEPART SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 A.M., DECEMBER 30 FOR FLIGHT ACROSS SOUTHERN CONTINENTAL US, OVER ATLANTIC OCEAN FOR LANDING EITHER IN NORTH AFRICA OR SOUTHERN EUROPE. BALLOON WILL BE TRAVELING AT APPROXIMATELY 40,000 FEET ALTITUDE; LENGTH OF FLIGHT DEPENDS ON WIND CONDITIONS, BUT ESTIMATED TO TAKE FROM 4 TO 7 DAYS.

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2. IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED BY EMBASSY

REFTEL: A) FORBES GROUP HAS NOT YET UNDERTAKEN ANY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE SEARCH AND/OR RESCUE MISSION
IN MAURITANIA. B) AIR SHIP WILL BE SIMILAR IN DESIGN TO
THAT OF GATCH I.E. 13 BALLOONS PLUS SPHERICAL GONDOLA.
NAME OF SHIP "WINDBORNE" WILL BE STENCILED ON SIDE OF
GONDOLA ALONG WITH US FLAG AND NOTATION INDICATING
"FORBES MAGAZINE, ATLANTIC PROJECT". C) AIR SHIP WILL
CARRY SOPHISTICATED RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO BE
MONITORED BY TWO CONTROL CENTERS 1) RCA GLOBAL COMMUNI-
CATIONS, 60 BROAD ST., NYC 2) CENTRE NATIONAL POUR
L'EXPLORATION SPATIAL (CNES), TOULOUSE, FRANCE. D)
FORBES PROJECT CANNOT NOW PREDICT WHERE BALLOON WILL
LAND BUT MAURITANIA IS THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY. MAW UNQUOTE
BROWN

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